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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-seventh session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolutions 1990/2 A and B and 1990/3. By paragraph 5 of resolution 1990/2 A, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale, and to report on its implementation to the Commission at its forty-seventh session. By paragraph 6 of resolution 1990/2 B, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission at its forty-seventh session. By paragraph 6 of resolution 1990/3, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session.

2. In accordance with the requests of the Commission, the Secretary-General brought resolutions 1990/2 A and B and 1990/3 to the attention of all Governments, by a note verbale dated 1 June 1990. They were also communicated to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

3. Furthermore, the resolutions were transmitted to all the specialized agencies and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the League of Arab States were also sent copies of the resolutions. In addition, the resolutions were brought to the attention of 26 international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations.

4. In response to the request of the Commission on Human Rights contained in resolutions 1990/2 A and 1990/3, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat took steps to ensure that these resolutions would receive the widest possible publicity. Resolutions 1990/2 and 1990/3 of the Commission on Human Rights have been made available world-wide through the department's information centres. In addition, the resolutions were also circulated in the media encounters and fact-finding missions organized by the Department. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information undertook the following relevant activities:

(a) A booklet published by the Department in 1985, in describing the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, deals specifically with the human rights situation in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights. This booklet has been revised, updated and distributed world-wide in late 1989. Another booklet, published in 1986, deals generally with the question of Palestine and also covers the subject of human rights in the occupied territories. This booklet has been revised and updated this year. The English version has been distributed world-wide since May 1990; the other four languages (Arabic, French, German, Spanish) will be released soon. A brochure on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which has been distributed world-wide in English, has been translated into French and Spanish;

(b) The question of human rights in the occupied territories was covered by the Department's press, radio and visual services whenever it was discussed in United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and other intergovernmental bodies. The output of those services was used extensively by the Department's network of United Nations information centres around the world;

(c) The Department issued press releases on the mission to the Middle East undertaken by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

(d) News media fact-finding missions to the Middle East, organized annually, bring about 10 to 15 high-level journalists from all over the world to the region, allowing them an opportunity to understand the Middle East conflict at first hand. In addition, media representatives also participate in two annual regional encounters and a series of national encounters organized by the Department. The fact-finding missions and encounters both deal comprehensively with the situation in the Middle East in general and the question of Palestine in particular, which include an assessment of the human rights conditions in the occupied territories. During 1990, regional encounters were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the North and Latin American and Caribbean regions; and in Singapore for the Asia and Pacific region. Ten national encounters were held in Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America.

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